



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | www.miravenhill.org
info@miravenhill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: August 6, 2022
Re: exciting news

Greetings Everyone!



Raven Hill is pleased to be chosen by Michigan Humanities to host a new Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Exhibit, **Spark! Places of Innovation**.

The exhibit will tour Michigan during 2023. **Spark!** will explore the unique combination of places, people and circumstances that sparks innovation and invention in rural communities. Inspired by an exhibition at the National Museum of American History, this travelling exhibition features stories gathered from diverse communities across the nation. Jennifer Rupp, President & CEO of Michigan Humanities said, "It was very difficult to narrow down from 18 applications to six host sites." In addition to Raven Hill, Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library, Three Rivers Public Library, Benzonia Public Library, Capac Library/St. Clair County Library System and Loutit District Library in Grand Haven will host the **Spark! Places of Innovation** Exhibit.

In addition, the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program is working with the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum (CHSDM) on a **Youth Innovation in Rural America (YIRA)** project. Raven Hill has been invited to submit an application. Only two communities out of about 24 sites in four states will be selected to participate in the **YIRA** project. **YIRA** will provide an intensive program for young people that uses principles of design to demonstrate how innovation can turn community problems into real solutions.



Campers picked veggies from the camp gardens. They fed the turtles AND Cheri! What a great treat for my dinner last week! This coming week of August 8th is the last week of Discovery Camp for 2022. We are busy brainstorming ideas for next summer!

Inspired by **Spark!**, which highlights innovation in rural America from the perspective of the people who lived it, students in grades 7-12 will participate in a community-based design challenge. Youth will play a leading role in brainstorming and identifying the unique problems faced by their community, during neighborhood conversations and interviews. This input will in turn determine their final project focus. Concurrent with the students' process, the host community benefits from encouraging public discourse and enhancing youth involvement as a way to inspire innovation within the community. Cooper Hewitt, Museum on Main Street and Michigan Humanities partners are excited to bring the new **Youth Innovation in Rural America** program to states hosting the **Spark!** Exhibit and Raven Hill is excited to submit an application.

One last reminder that tomorrow, August 7th, is the **Pedal, Pig, and Pint Bike Tour**. Choose your wheels, ride at your level and your pace, or challenge yourself to the **Road to Trail Challenge** or the **Twin Trails Challenge**. All riders must register and sign a waiver at Veterans Park in Boyne City between 7:30am and 10:30am the day of the event. After the ride, meet at Stiggs for lunch and a pint (or soft drink of your choice). Please support Raven Hill Discovery Center and Top Of Michigan Mountain Bike Association. For more information or details on the bike event, contact Holly at 517.231.3341.



Thanks to Boyne City Main Street for sharing the Pedal Pig & Pint event with the community.

The **Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra** concert will be held here at Raven Hill this Thursday, August 11th at 7pm. Lynn Hansen on the Oboe and English horn and Ann Schoelles on the Viola will entertain guests with music from Michigan's lumbering era to the present. This is a **free** outdoor concert on the grounds of Raven Hill with refreshments served afterwards. Bring the entire family. You can email info@miravenhill.org to let us know that you are planning to attend. Reservations are appreciated, but not necessary. We want to make sure there is enough seating. I am attaching a flyer, along with this update, in case you want to share this wonderful opportunity with family and friends. Hope to see you Thursday evening.

Saturday, August 13th is another **FREE** (Families Reaching for Educational Excellence) **Second Saturday** here at Raven Hill. Perhaps you have never been to Raven Hill; haven't visited in a while to see all the changes or maybe you just want to take advantage of free admission? Whatever the reason, we invite you and your family to join us for an afternoon of discovery. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are limiting the numbers inside the museum at any given time and our animal "shows" are a shortened version. Don't despair! There is plenty to explore outside on the Center's 170 acres and it is a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. **FREE Second Saturdays** are currently only scheduled for the warm months. They will continue through October 2022 and then resume in May 2023. These special days are free admission for families only. No groups please. For more information or to sponsor a day, email info@miravenhill.org or call Cheri at 231.536.3369.



Yesterday, the early morning sun came through one of the prisms in an east window and its rainbow created this on the black board behind the chameleon skeleton!

Summer hours are in effect for another month. Raven Hill is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm through Friday, September 2nd. Starting Saturday, September 3rd, Raven Hill will be open weekends—noon to 4pm on Saturdays; 2pm to 4pm on Sundays and then other times by appointment. Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to make reservations for visiting friends & relatives or any special occasion, including major holidays.



Later in the day, the chameleon skeleton had its usual black background behind it!

Hope to see you at the concert on Thursday, Cheri